

Kathleen Hartnett White, *Chairman*
R. B. "Ralph" Marquez, *Commissioner*
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EI-1435
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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

February 16, 2005

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, N.W., Room 504
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: TCEQ GEARS #6354-Docket No. AB-281 (Sub-No. 1X), Texas North Western Railway Company-Abandonment, Exemption-In Moore, Hutchinson and Hansford Counties, TX

Dear Sir:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has reviewed the above-referenced project and offers the following comments:

A review of the project for General Conformity impact in accordance with 40 CFR Part 93 and Title 30, Texas Administrative Code §101.30 indicates that the proposed action is located in Moore, Hutchinson, and Hansford counties, which are currently unclassified or in attainment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for all six criteria air pollutants. Therefore, general conformity does not apply.

Although any demolition, construction, rehabilitation or repair project will produce dust and particulate emissions, these actions should pose no significant impact upon air quality standards. Any minimal dust and particulate emissions should be easily controlled by the construction contractors using standard dust mitigation techniques.

Significant long-term environmental impacts from this project are not anticipated as long as construction and waste disposal activities are completed in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal statutes and regulations. We recommend that the applicants take necessary steps to insure that best management practices are utilized to control runoff from construction sites to prevent detrimental impact to both surface and groundwater.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions, please call Mr. Daniel Burke, Policy and Regulations Division, at (512) 239-1543.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan S. Ferguson".

Susan S. Ferguson, Manager
Policy and Regulations Division